

## **RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 43-2021**

### **Re: 2021 COVID-19 Response – Alberta Government’s Restrictions Exemption Program**

Whereas I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Whereas under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Whereas a state of public health emergency was declared in the province of Alberta on September 15, 2021.

Whereas I have determined it is possible to exempt eligible businesses, entities and events and patrons and attendees at their premises from certain restrictions found in Record of Decision CMOH Order 42-2021 provided that eligible participants screen patrons or attendees for proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result, I hereby make the following order:

### **Table of Contents**

- Part 1 – Application
- Part 2 – Definitions
- Part 3 – Restrictions Exemption Program
- Part 4 – Masking Requirements
  - A. Indoor masking requirements
  - B. General exceptions to indoor masking
  - C. Masking exceptions for health conditions
- Part 5 – Obligations of eligible participants
  - A. Screening of patrons or attendees
  - B. Forms of proof of vaccination
  - C. Exceptions for proof of vaccination
  - D. Positive test result
- Part 6 – General

## Part 1 – Application

- 1.1 This Order is effective September 17, 2021, and applies throughout the Province of Alberta.
- 1.2 Record of Decision CMOH Order 42-2021 is not in force in respect of eligible participants and patrons and attendees who are in compliance with this Order.
- 1.3 Record of Decision CMOH Order 43-2021 is not in force in respect of an employee of an eligible participant.

## Part 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 In this Order and the Appendix A to this Order, the following terms have the following meanings:
  - (a) “authorizing health professional” means
    - i. for the purposes of a masking exception, one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:
      - A. nurse practitioners;
      - B. physicians;
      - C. psychologists.
    - ii. for the purposes of the vaccine exception, one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:
      - A. nurse practitioners;
      - B. physicians.
  - (b) “COVID-19 test” means a Health Canada approved rapid screening test or a lab based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of the jurisdiction in which the test is performed which:
    - i. a person has taken within the last 72 hours;
    - ii. clearly outlines the laboratory that completed the test if applicable the type of test, time of sample collection, and clear indication of a negative result; and
    - iii. is not sourced from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system.
  - (c) “discretionary business, entity or event” means a business, entity or event described as “in scope” in Appendix A of this Order.
  - (d) “eligible participant” means an operator of a discretionary business, entity or event that chooses to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program under this Order.

- (e) “eligible person” means a person who is living, working or going to school in Alberta who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- (f) “employee” means workers, contractors, repair workers, delivery workers, volunteers, students inspectors or others who are entering the eligible participant for work purposes and not as patrons or attendees.
- (g) “face mask” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin.
- (h) “fitness activity” means a physical activity that occurs at a gym, fitness studio, dance studio, rink, pool, arena or recreation centre and includes dance classes, rowing, spin, yoga, boxing, boot camp, Pilates and other activities of a similar nature.
- (i) “Guidelines” means the Requirements for the Restrictions Exemption Program published on the Government of Alberta website.
- (j) “health condition” means the following mental or physical limitations:
  - i. sensory processing disorders;
  - ii. developmental delays;
  - iii. mental illnesses including: anxiety disorders; psychotic disorders; dissociative identity disorder; and depressive disorders;
  - iv. facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery;
  - v. contact dermatitis or allergic reactions to face mask components; or
  - vi. clinically significant acute respiratory distress.
- (k) “masking medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies that the person has a health condition that prevents the person from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place and:
  - i. clearly sets out the information required by section 4.6 of this Order; and
  - ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.
- (l) “medical contraindication to vaccination” means a condition diagnosed by an authorizing health professional as determined by guidance provided by the College of Physicians and Surgeons or the College and Association of Registered Nurses.
- (m) “personal identification” means a valid:
  - i. birth certificate issued by a government of a province of Canada and including the photograph of the holder;
  - ii. citizenship card;
  - iii. driver’s licence issued by a government of a province of Canada and including the photograph of the holder;

- iv. government (Alberta or other) issued identification card, including health card;
  - v. certificate of Indian Status;
  - vi. Métis Nation of Alberta Association citizenship and identification card;
  - vii. Inuit Status card;
  - viii. passport attesting to citizenship or other national status, issued by a government of any jurisdiction and including a photograph of the holder;
  - ix. Permanent Resident Card.
- (n) “patron or attendee” means an eligible person attending at a business, entity or event participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program under this Order.
- (o) “PCR test” means the polymerase chain reaction test for COVID-19.
- (p) “performance activity” means singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, acting or other activities of a similar nature and includes, but is not limited to, a rehearsal, concert, theatre, dance, choral, festival, musical and symphony events.
- (q) “physical activity” means a fitness activity or sport activity.
- (r) “premises” means the site or location where the eligible participant operates.
- (s) “rapid screening test” means a COVID-19 testing device that is listed in *Authorized medical devices for uses related to COVID-19: List of authorized testing devices by Health Canada* published on the Government of Canada website and is approved for point-of-care molecular or antigen COVID-19 testing, including but not limited to, Panbio COVID-19 AG Rapid Test Device (nasal), Bd Veritor System For Rapid Detection Of SARS-CoV-2, Id Now COVID-19 and the Spartan COVID-19 System Cube.
- (t) “recreational activity” means any structured or organized activity or program where the purpose of the activity or program is intended to develop a skill, including but not limited to, Girl Guides, Scouts, choir, arts and crafts, pottery or other substantially similar activities.
- (u) “sport activity” means sports training, practices, events, games, scrimmages, competitions, gameplay, league play, and other activities of a similar nature.
- (v) “vaccinated” means a person who is eligible for vaccination who has:
- i. during the period between September 17, 2021 and October 24, 2021:
    - A. proof of receiving at least one dose of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine and has had fourteen or more days elapse since the date on which the person received the first dose of vaccine;
  - ii. on or after October 25, 2021:

- A. proof of receiving two doses of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine in a two dose vaccine series and has had fourteen or more days elapse since the date on which the person received the first dose of vaccine;
- B. proof of receiving one dose in a one dose World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine series and has had fourteen days or more elapse since the date on which the person received the one dose of vaccine.

(w) “vaccine medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies there is a medical contraindication to vaccination that prevents the person from being vaccinated and:

- i. clearly sets out the information required by section 5.6 of this Order; and
- ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.

### **Part 3 – Restrictions Exemption Program**

- 3.1 A discretionary business, entity or event which chooses to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program must do so in accordance with this Order.
- 3.2 A business, entity or event described as “Out of Scope” in Appendix A is ineligible for participation in the Restrictions Exemption Program.

### **Part 4 – Masking requirements**

#### **A. Indoor masking requirements**

- 4.1 Except as set out in this Order, a patron or attendee must wear a face mask at all times while attending at an eligible participant’s premises.
- 4.2 For greater certainty a patron or attendee must wear a face mask in
  - (a) all indoor spaces on the premises of an eligible participant that all patrons or attendees may attend; and
  - (b) at a wedding ceremony or reception or at a funeral service or reception that is held at the premises of an eligible participant.

#### **B. General exceptions to indoor masking**

- 4.3 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee is not required to wear a face mask at all times while attending an eligible participant’s premises if the patron or attendee is:
  - (a) a youth under two years of age;

- (b) participating in an indoor physical activity or performance activity (including a wedding ceremony);
- (c) unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
- (d) seated at a table while consuming food or drink or, if standing at a standing table while consuming food or drink, as long as the person remains at the standing table at all times while consuming the food or drink;
- (e) providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
- (f) a person who needs to temporarily remove their face mask while in an eligible participant's premises for the purposes of:
  - i. receiving a service that requires the temporary removal of their face mask;
  - ii. an emergency or medical purpose, or
  - iii. establishing their identity.

### **C. Masking exceptions for health conditions**

- 4.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee who is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition as determined by an authorizing health professional is excepted from wearing a face mask while attending the eligible participant's premises.
- 4.5 For the purposes of section 4.4, the health condition must be verified by a masking medical exception letter that includes the following:
  - (a) the name of the patron or attendee to whom the exception applies;
  - (b) the name, phone number, email address, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional; and
  - (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided.
- 4.6 For greater certainty, although the masking medical exception letter must verify that a health condition applies, the medical exception letter must not include specific information about the health condition.

## **Part 5 – Obligations of eligible participants**

### **A. Screening of patrons or attendees**

- 5.1 An eligible participant must screen every patron and attendee for one of the following at the point of entry in accordance with the Guidelines:
  - (a) proof of vaccination as set out in section 5.3;
  - (b) proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours;

(c) original vaccine medical exception letter.

5.2 A patron or attendee must provide an eligible participant with personal identification and one of the following at the point of entry:

- (a) proof of vaccination as set out in section 5.3;
- (b) proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours;
- (c) original vaccine medical exception letter.

**B. Forms of proof of vaccination**

5.3 For Alberta residents, one of the following is acceptable as proof of vaccination:

- (a) a picture or paper record of a valid Alberta Health Services, MyHealth Records, pharmacy, First Nations, or physician immunization record prominently displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration;
- (b) valid Government of Alberta vaccination QR code;
- (c) an immunization record from another Canadian province or territory displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration;
- (d) Canadian armed forces immunization record, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration.

5.4 For international travellers, an ArriveCan app and a valid international travel identity document is acceptable as proof of vaccination.

**C. Exceptions for proof of vaccination**

5.5 Despite this Part of this Order, a patron or attendee who is unable to be vaccinated due to a medical contraindication to vaccination is excepted from the requirement of showing proof of vaccination to attend at an eligible participant's premises.

5.6 For the purposes of section 5.5 the medical contraindication to vaccination must be verified by a vaccine medical exception letter that includes the following:

- (a) the name of the patron or attendee to whom the exception applies;
- (b) the name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional;
- (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided; and
- (d) the length of time the exemption is valid.

5.7 For greater certainty, although the vaccine medical exception letter must verify that a medical contraindication to vaccination applies, the vaccine medical exception letter must not include specific information about the nature of the medical contraindication to vaccination.



5.8 Despite section 5.2, the following persons are not required to provide proof of vaccination:

- (a) a person ineligible for immunization under the Alberta COVID-19 immunization program;
- (b) a person with a medical exemption letter for vaccination;
- (c) a person with a written or printed copy of a negative COVID-19 test.

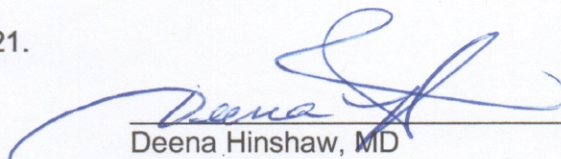
**D. Positive Test Result**

5.9 An eligible participant is prohibited from allowing a person presenting a positive COVID-19 test result from attending at the eligible participant's premises and must advise a person who presents a positive COVID-19 test result that the person must isolate in accordance with CMOH Order 06-2021.

**Part 6 – General**

- 6.1 This Order provides the minimum standards for public health measures in Alberta for those matters addressed by this Order.
- 6.2 For greater certainty, nothing in this Order relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal, provincial or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence covering those matters which are addressed in this Order.
- 6.3 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

  
Deena Hinshaw, MD  
Chief Medical Officer of Health





**Document:** Appendix A to Record of Decision – CMOH Order 43-2021

**Subject:** CMOH Order 43-2021 Alberta Government's Restrictions Exemption Program

**Scope of Application:** As per Record of Decision – CMOH Order 43-2021

| In Scope                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Out of Scope                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Restaurants                                                                                                                                                                                                | Events in Private Dwellings                                     |
| Nightclubs                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Retail & Shopping Malls                                         |
| Casinos, Bingo Halls, VLT Lounges                                                                                                                                                                          | Food Courts                                                     |
| Entertainment/Rec Centers, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bowling, racing entertainment, arcades, billiards halls, other similar entertainment</li> <li>Museums, art galleries</li> </ul> | Libraries                                                       |
| Movie theatres                                                                                                                                                                                             | Employees in/on a worksite for the purposes of their employment |
| Recreation facilities for physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity                                                                                                                 | Schools, K-12                                                   |
| Conferences / Meeting Spaces / Halls/<br>Rented space (excluding dwelling units)                                                                                                                           | School curriculum based activity                                |
| Weddings and Funerals held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements                                                                            | Accommodations (e.g., hotel)                                    |
| Spectator at a professional sport activity                                                                                                                                                                 | Places of Worship – for faith services                          |
| Spectator at a professional performance activity                                                                                                                                                           | Health Services                                                 |
| Private social events held in public facilities where the facility maintains responsibility for adherence to these requirements                                                                            | Personal Services                                               |
| Adult sport activity participants                                                                                                                                                                          | Wellness Services                                               |

|                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Classes for recreational activities                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Hotel and condo amenities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fitness rooms, pools</li><li>• game rooms, movie rooms</li><li>• other similar amenities</li></ul> |  |